

Attorney Docket No. 06618-505001
Appl. No. 09/491,353
Amdt. dated July 21, 2003
Reply to Office action of March 19, 2003

In the abstract:

Please substitute the following rewritten abstract:

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Thin-shell finite-element analysis based on the use of
subdivision surfaces: (1) describing the geometry of a shell in
its undeformed configuration, and (2) generating smooth
interpolated displacement fields possessing bounded energy. No
nodal rotations are used in the interpolation. The
interpolation scheme induced by subdivision is nonlocal, i.e.,
the displacement field over one element depends on the nodal
displacements of the element nodes and all nodes of immediately
neighboring elements. However, the use of subdivision surfaces
ensures that all local displacement fields thus constructed
combine conformingly to define one single limit surface.